

Mayor Charles "Skip" Lee called a special meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, December 22, 2014. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Retha Elston, Christopher Schuchard and John Stauter. Absent: Alderman Barry Cox, Joe Martin and Lou Sotelo.

Also present were City Manager Scott Shumard, Attorney Ron Coplan and Assistant City Clerk Monique Castillo.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

There was no communication from Visitors.

Mayor Lee introduced Greg Hummel of Bryan Cave, LLC. Hummel presented an Amended Financial Assistance Agreement in the amount of \$900,000.00 in support of the Sterling Mud to Gardens Project. Hummel stated it was critical to complete the work for this project and this grant will be beneficial to reaching this goal. Hummel was happy to report, receipt of this grant will make this a completely funded project in the amount of \$2 million dollars.

Hummel asked the Council to consider the benefits of the Financial Assistance Agreement and asked to be given authority to communicate directly with the Illinois EPA and sign the agreement so it may be presented to the Council at the January 5, 2015 Council Meeting for approval.

Jens Jensen, Cardno JFNew, reported the results of a bid opening from earlier today. Two bids were submitted. Both bids were substantially higher than was anticipated. Jensen explained this could be the result of the complexity of this project and the contractor's uncertainty of the overall picture.

Jensen is hopeful, with the assistance of Vern Gottel, Project Manager, they will be able to negotiate the figures, as they noticed in reviewing the bids, a few of the line items were bid exactly as expected, some were lower than projected and some were bid for more decorative rather than functional.

Hummel was also happy to report the City of Sterling received a grant in the amount of 1.3 million dollars out of a TIF account that will be accessible to cover unanticipated overages with this project.

Mayor Lee entertained two motions by the Council to accept the low bid from Martin & Company contingent upon staff negotiations and to allow the attorneys to pursue an amended agreement with Illinois EPA for submission on January 5, 2015.

Alderman Elston made a motion to accept the low bid from Martin & Company subject to further negotiations between Martin & Co., Vern Gottel, Project Manager and Jens Jensen of Cardno JFNew; seconded Alderman Schuchard. Voting: Ayes – Elston, Schuchard and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to direct the attorneys to communicate with Illinois EPA to negotiate Amendment 1 of the Financial Assistance Agreement for submission and approval at the January 5, 2015 Council meeting; seconded by Alderman Stauter. Voting: Ayes – Schuchard, Stauter and Elston. Nays – None. Motion carried.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Monique Castillo
Assistant City Clerk